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C O N F I D E N T I A L JERUSALEM 000635

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NEA FOR FRONT OFFICE. NSC FOR ABRAMS/SINGH/PASCUAL
JCS FOR GENERAL FRASER

E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/09/2018
TAGS: [KWBG](#) [PBTS](#) [PREL](#) [PHUM](#) [IS](#)
SUBJECT: CONSTRUCTION OF 200 NEW HOMES UNDERWAY AT MEVO
HORON SETTLEMENT

Classified By: Consul General Jake Walles, per reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

11. (C) SUMMARY: PolOff visited Mevo Horon settlement April 9 following GOI claims to the Embassy that it would remove shortly six caravans from an outpost near the settlement. Mevo Horon settlers refused to show PolOff the caravans but showed him 200 permanent homes under construction, which Post was previously unaware of. Settlement watchers believe this outpost is on the GOI list of post-March 2001 outposts, but has not been removed. END SUMMARY.

12. (C) PolOff visited the Central West Bank settlement of Mevo Horon April 9 following GOI claims to the Embassy that it would remove shortly six caravans from the outpost of the Mevo Horon Agricultural Farm. This outpost is widely believed by settlement watchers to be on the GOI list of post-March 2001 outposts slated for removal. A member of the local settlement council Mevo Horon refused to show PolOff the caravans and said the settlers are now "working with the government on the issue," and all the buildings "are within the approved town plan." She added that "the government values Mevo Horon for its strategic location with easy access to Jerusalem and Tel Aviv and the economic opportunities it provides." Otherwise, all Mevo Horon settlers refused to discuss with PolOff the issue of outposts or their role in the issue.

13. (C) Settlers showed PolOff their "new neighborhood," with 200 homes in various stages of construction. They said all the new homes are in accordance with Mevo Horon's MOD approved town plan, and new projects require only the permission of the Binyamin Regional Council in nearby Psagot settlement. PolOff also saw eight new structures under construction: a center for the disabled, two new cattle stable facilities, one new industrial warehouse, and one newly completed school.

14. (C) Settlers led PolOff on a tour of Mevo Horon and its numerous industrial activities. They include Israel's oldest and largest pre-packaged kosher meal production facility where 100 workers produce 18,000 meals per day. Mevo Horon also has a high tech dairy farm with 440 cattle, furniture import warehouse, vineyard, physio-therapy institute, and center for the mentally disabled.

15. (C) COMMENT: The 200 new, permanent structures being constructed at the settlement, which Post was not previously aware of, makes the discussion of moving six caravans seem small and unimportant. END COMMENT.
WALLES